



Christopher D. Cerf  
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent  
Christopher D. Cerf, Superintendent  
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February 4, 2017

Dear NPS Community,

I am writing to express my gratitude to the many school leaders and educators who have supported, and continue to support, our students during a period of uncertainty caused by recent political events. We recognize that many students and their families are struggling with intensely personal questions, concerns, and fears. Our mission is to ensure that our schools are safe spaces where a student's race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status do not create any barriers to that child's education. To assist this mission, we are sharing answers to the following questions regarding our commitment to serve students of all immigration statuses and backgrounds.

**Q: What impact does undocumented immigration status have on my child's education?**

A: None! Children have a constitutional right to have equal access to education regardless of their immigration status or their parents' status.

**Q: Does Newark Public Schools ask for a child's immigration status when he or she enrolls?**

A: No. Public school districts like NPS have an obligation to enroll students regardless of their immigration status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

**Q: Would the school district ever share our students' immigration status with the federal immigration officials?**

A: As mentioned above, we do not ask for students' immigration status when they enroll. However, if we became aware of a student's lack of immigration status, we would not share that information with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

**Q: What does Newark Public Schools do to ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin?**

A: NPS believes deeply in ensuring equity – it is one of our core values. We have policies in place that mandate no discrimination or harassment for our students, families, or employees on the base of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, and many other protected classes.

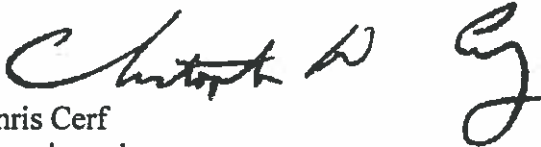
**Q: What should I do if I want to understand my immigration rights?**

A: Only immigration attorneys can provide you with accurate advice about immigration status and how you can pursue any legal rights you might have. You can seek an immigration attorney from the American Immigration Lawyers Association here:

- <http://www.aialawyer.org/> (English)
- <http://www.aialawyer.org/spanish/default.aspx> (Spanish)

A good education is the key to a child's success – and we want to let everyone in our community know that we at Newark Public Schools stand with you and will do everything in our power to ensure that your children and families will continue to have access to a high-quality education here in Newark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cerf". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, prominent "C" and "S" at the end.

Chris Cerf  
Superintendent